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ART SALES AND SALE PRICES

The sensational auction of the Cronier art collection, which has just been sold in Paris by order of the court, created even greater excitement than was anticipated. Even the famous Spitzer sale was not so much talked about as was the dispersion of the marvellous Art treasures which belonged to Mr. Cronier, whose suicide after a failure for fifty million francs and involving many prominent families, startled Paris. The entire collection was valued at \$500,000. The sale lasted four days, and on the very first this figure was surpassed, the total at the close of the sale reaching \$1,400,000. A sensation was caused when a picture by Honore Fragonard, which in 1815 had been sold for \$60, and which was purchased by Mr. Cronier fifteen years ago for \$21,000, was knocked down to Mr. Wildenstein for \$84,000. A picture by Chardin, representing a girl playing battledore and shuttlecock, was purchased by Baron Henri de Rothschild for \$28,000. An unsigned picture, attributed to the French school, representing a luncheon party near a fountain, brought \$36,000, and was acquired by Mr. Kleinberger. A Gainsborough portrait of Sir John Campbell brought \$13,000; another Gainsborough, representing "Meditation," brought the same price. Among the modern paintings a Corot was sold for \$9,400, a Diaz de la Pena \$10,000. A Rousseau brought \$22,000. Remarkable among the pieces of old porcelain were some magnificent Chinese vases, which brought prices ranging from \$1,800 to \$2,400 each. Gold enameled snuff-boxes went as high as \$2,800 each. Bronzes and clocks also brought fabulous prices. A Louis XV clock brought \$3,000, and a pair of gilded candelabra adorned with Saxon china, found so many admirers that they reached \$7,800 before they were knocked down. Furniture brought also wonderful prices. A writing table of the Regency epoch sold for \$23,000. Two commodes of the Louis XV period brought \$12,000. A set of furniture of the Regency period, covered with Beauvais and Aubusson tapestry, brought \$41,000. The tapestries were remarkable for their beauty, and brought prices which hardly ever have been realized before. One, a Beauvais, made after the drawings of Boucher, representing the Sister of Psyche, brought \$60,000. Another large one, representing the history of Don Quixote, fetched \$40,000.

* The highest price given for any engraving in the recent Anderson sale in London was \$925. This was paid for the portrait of Lady Taylor after Reynolds by W. Dickinson. Next came a collection of ninety-eight portraits in an album, chiefly in mezzotint, after Ramsay, Hudson, Mercier, M. Dahl, and others, which were bought for \$630. Other works which realized fair prices were the following: "The Strawberry Girl," by T. Watson, first state, \$410; "Portrait of Miss Elizabeth Laura Russell," after W. Owens, R. A., by H. Meyer, proof before any letters, \$295; "Portrait of Lady Harriet Clive," after Sir T. Lawrence, by S. Cousins, R. A., first published state, for \$295; and "Portrait of Maria, Countess of Suffolk," after Read, by J. Watson, engraver's proof, \$265.